

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03

AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 HEW-08 SCA-01 OMB-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01

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DRAFTED BY MFHERZ:IO

APPROVED BY MFHERZ:IO

S/R - MR. WIESNER

EUR/CE - MR. GEORGE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 196854

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, PINS, UN, AU, IS

SUBJ.: POSSIBLE ROLE OF UN OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES
IN TRANSIT OF SOVIET JEWS THROUGH AUSTRIA

1. WE NOTE THAT CHANCELLOR KREISKY HAS SUGGESTED THAT
SCHOENAU TRANSIT FACILITY MIGHT REMAIN IN OPERATION IF IT
WERE TO FUNCTION UNDER UN AUSPICES.

2. FOR OBVIOUS REASONS WE WISH TO BE OF ASSISTANCE IN
MATTER OF STAGING THE SOVIET JEWS THROUGH AUSTRIA, IN A
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SPIRIT OF HUMANITARIANISM. WE UNDERSTOOD THERE MAY BE SOME

QUESTION WHETHER SOVIET EMIGRANTS WOULD FALL UNDER THE MANDATE OF UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES. ALSO, WE WOULD EXPECT HCR TO BE MOST RELUCTANT TO TAKE ON RESPONSIBILITY FOR FACILITY (EVEN IF EXPENSES WERE ASSUMED BY JEWISH AGENCIES) IF IN DOING SO HE OPENED HIMSELF UP TO ATTACK BY ARABS AND PERHAPS SOVIETS, WHICH IN TURN COULD HAVE SERIOUS EFFECT ON ONGOING UNHCR PROGRAMS THAT REQUIRE SUPPORT OR WILLINGACQUIESCENCE OF ARABS AND AFRICANS.

3. FORTUNATELY, THERE ARE ALTERNATIVES IN ADDITION TO HCR, FOR INSTANCE ICRC AND ICEM. WE ARE ESPECIALLY IMPRESSED WITH ADVANTAGES THAT LATTER ALTERNATIVE WOULD PRESENT (GENEVA 5229).

4. REQUEST YOU ASCERTAIN WHETHER GOA HAS MADE FORMAL SUGGESTION TO UN, WHETHER THIS WAS DONE BY KIRCHSCHLAEGER, AND WHAT RESPONSES HE MAY HAVE RECEIVED. IN YOUR CONVERSATIONS YOU SHOULD INDICATE US CONCERN IN THIS MATTER, WITHOUT EXPRESSING VIEW THAT UNHCR IS NECESSARILY THE BEST AGENCY FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE MIGRANTS. WE WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IF AUSTRIANS HAVE YET EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ICEM AS AN ALTERNATIVE. RUSH

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